

Minimum Mandatory NO
Rule 35/5K1.1 YES
Appeal Waiver YES
Asset Forfeiture YES

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF GEORGIA
BRUNSWICK DIVISION

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA)
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MARK ALAN CIOPRYNA)

CR 217-51

SUMMARY OF PLEA AGREEMENT

DEFENSE COUNSEL:

Robert S. Willis

STATUTES CHARGED:

Count One - 18 U.S.C. 371 - Conspiracy
Forfeiture Allegation

COUNT PLEADING TO:

Count One - 18 U.S.C. 371 - Conspiracy

MAXIMUM STATUTORY PENALTY:

Imprisonment for not more than 5 years;
Fine of not more than \$250,000 pursuant to 18 U.S.C. § 3571;
Not more than 3 years supervised release, pursuant to 18 U.S.C. § 3583;
\$100 special assessment.

ELEMENTS OF THE OFFENSE:

- First:** two or more persons in some way agreed to try to accomplish a shared and unlawful plan;
- Second:** the Defendant knew the unlawful purpose of the plan and willfully joined in it;
- Third:** during the conspiracy, one of the conspirators knowingly engaged in at least one overt act as described in the Information; and
- Fourth:** the overt act was committed at or about the time alleged and with the purpose of carrying out or accomplishing some object of the conspiracy.

TERMS OF PLEA AGREEMENT:

- Defendant waives indictment by the Grand Jury.
- Defendant will plead guilty to Count One of the Superseding Information.
- The government will not object to a recommendation by the U.S. Probation Office that Defendant receive an appropriate reduction in offense level for acceptance of responsibility pursuant to Section 3E1.1 of the Sentencing Guidelines.
- Defendant agrees to provide full, complete, candid, and truthful cooperation to the government. The government, in its sole discretion, will decide whether that cooperation qualifies as “substantial assistance” that warrants the filing of a motion for downward departure or reduction in sentence.
- Defendant agrees to forfeit his interest in the property described in the forfeiture allegation of the Superseding Information.
- Defendant waives his right to appeal on any ground, with only three exceptions: he may appeal his sentence if (1) that sentence exceeds the statutory maximum, (2) that sentence exceeds the advisory Guidelines range determined by this Court at sentencing, or (3) the government appeals.
- Defendant entirely waives his right to collaterally attack his conviction and sentence on any ground and by any method, including but not limited to a 28 U.S.C. § 2255 motion. The only exception is that Defendant may collaterally attack his conviction and sentence based on a claim of ineffective assistance of counsel.
- Defendant waives all rights to request information about the investigation and prosecution of his case under the Freedom of Information Act or the Privacy Act.

- Defendant waives the protections of Rule 11(f) of the Federal Rules of Criminal Procedure and Rule 410 of the Federal Rules of Evidence. If he fails to plead guilty, or later withdraws his guilty plea, all statements made by him in connection with that plea, and any leads derived therefrom, shall be admissible for any and all purposes.

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Rule 35/5K1.1 YES
Appeal Waiver YES
Asset Forfeiture YES

**UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF GEORGIA
BRUNSWICK DIVISION**

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA) **CR 217-51**
)
 v.)
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 MARK ALAN CIOPRYNA)

PLEA AGREEMENT

Defendant, represented by counsel, and the United States of America, represented by Assistant United States Attorney Karl I. Knoche, have reached a plea agreement in this case. The terms and conditions of that agreement are as follows.

1. Guilty Plea

Defendant agrees to enter a plea of guilty to Count One of the Superseding Information, which charges a violation of 18 U.S.C. § 371.

2. Elements and Factual Basis

The elements necessary to prove the offense charged in Count One are:

First: two or more persons in some way agreed to try to accomplish a shared and unlawful plan;

Second: the Defendant knew the unlawful purpose of the plan and willfully joined in it;

Third: during the conspiracy, one of the conspirators knowingly engaged in at least one overt act as described in the Information; and

Fourth: the overt act was committed at or about the time alleged and with the purpose of carrying out or accomplishing some object of the conspiracy.

Defendant agrees that he is, in fact, guilty of this offense. He agrees to the accuracy of the following facts which satisfy each of the offense's required elements:

1. That from on or about October 9, 2014, up to and including on or about June 13, 2017, in Camden County, in the Southern District of Georgia, and elsewhere, the defendant, **MARK ALAN CIOPRYNA**, aided and abetted by others, did knowingly and willfully combine, conspire, confederate and agree with other persons:

a) to knowingly and intentionally distribute and dispense, and cause to be distributed and dispensed, quantities of controlled substances, including oxycodone, hydromorphone, and hydrocodone, Schedule II controlled substances, and alprazolam, a Schedule IV controlled substance, not for a legitimate medical purpose and not in the usual course of professional practice, contrary to Title 21, United States Code, Section 841(a)(1); and

b) to knowingly and willfully engage in financial transactions concerning Coastline Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation, Brunswick, Georgia, which transactions involved the proceeds of specified unlawful activity, that is, the unlawful distribution and dispensation of controlled substances, in violation of Title 21, United States Code, Section 841(a)(1), with the intent to promote the carrying on of the aforesaid specified unlawful activity and to conceal or disguise the nature, the location, the source, the ownership, or the control of the proceeds of specified unlawful activity, contrary to Title 18, United States Code, Sections 1956(a)(1)(A)(i) and 1956(a)(1)(B)(i).

All done in violation of Title 18, United States Code, Section 371.

3. **Possible Sentence**

Defendant's guilty plea will subject him to the following maximum possible penalty:
Imprisonment for not more than 5 years; Fine of not more than \$250,000 pursuant to 18 U.S.C. §

3571; Not more than 3 years supervised release, pursuant to 18 U.S.C. § 3583; \$100 special assessment.

4. No Promised Sentence

No one has promised Defendant that the Court will impose any particular sentence or a sentence within any particular range. The Court is not bound by any estimate of sentence given or recommendations made by Defendant's counsel, the government, the U.S. Probation Office, or anyone else. The Court may impose a sentence up to the statutory maximum. Defendant will not be allowed to withdraw his plea of guilty if he receives a more severe sentence than he expects.

5. Court's Use of Guidelines

The Court is obligated to use the United States Sentencing Guidelines to calculate the applicable guideline range for Defendant's offense and to consider that range, possible departures under the Sentencing Guidelines, and other sentencing factors under 18 U.S.C. § 3553(a), in determining his sentence. The Sentencing Guidelines are advisory; the Court is not required to impose a sentence within the range those Guidelines suggest. The Sentencing Guidelines are based on all of Defendant's relevant conduct, pursuant to U.S.S.G. § 1B1.3, not just the facts underlying the particular Count to which Defendant is pleading guilty.

6. Agreements Regarding Sentencing Guidelines

a. Acceptance of Responsibility

The government will not object to a recommendation by the U.S. Probation Office that Defendant receive a two-level reduction in offense level for acceptance of responsibility pursuant to Section 3E1.1(a) of the Sentencing Guidelines.

b. Use of Information

The government is free to provide full and accurate information to the Court and U.S. Probation Office for use in calculating the applicable Sentencing Guidelines range. Any incriminating information provided by the defendant during his cooperation will not be used in determining the applicable Guidelines range, pursuant to U.S.S.G. § 1B1.8.

7. Restitution

The amount of restitution ordered by the Court shall include restitution for the full loss caused by Defendant's total criminal conduct. Restitution is not limited to the specific counts to which Defendant is pleading guilty. Any payment schedule imposed by the Court is without prejudice to the United States to take all actions and remedies available to it to collect the full amount of the restitution. Any restitution judgment is intended to and will survive Defendant, notwithstanding the abatement of any underlying criminal conviction.

8. Cooperation

a. Complete and Truthful Cooperation Required

Defendant must provide full, complete, candid, and truthful cooperation in the investigation and prosecution of the offenses charged in his Indictment and any related offenses. Defendant shall fully and truthfully disclose his knowledge of those offenses and shall fully and truthfully answer any question put to him by law enforcement officers about those offenses.

This agreement does not require Defendant to "make a case" against any particular person. His benefits under this agreement are conditioned only on his cooperation and truthfulness, not on the outcome of any trial, grand jury, or other proceeding.

b. Motion for Reduction in Sentence Based on Cooperation

The government, in its **sole discretion**, will decide whether Defendant's cooperation qualifies as "substantial assistance" pursuant to U.S.S.G. § 5K1.1 or Fed. R. Crim. P. 35 and thereby warrants the filing of a motion for downward departure or reduction in Defendant's sentence. If such a motion is filed, the Court, in its sole discretion, will decide whether, and to what extent, Defendant's sentence should be reduced. The Court is not required to accept any recommendation by the government that the Defendant's sentence be reduced.

9. Forfeiture

a. The defendant agrees to forfeit his interest in \$74,891.00 United States currency (the "Subject Property") seized from 4028 Peter Rabbit Drive, Jacksonville, Florida on June 13, 2017, said property constituting or derived from proceeds the defendant obtained directly or indirectly as a result of said offense.

By virtue of the commission of the offense charged in this Information by the defendant, any and all interest the defendant has in the property subject to forfeiture is vested in the United States and is hereby forfeited to the United States.

b. By this agreement, Defendant agrees to take all steps requested by the United States to facilitate transfer of title of the Subject Property to the United States, including but not limited to the signing of a consent order or decree, a stipulation of facts regarding the transfer and basis for the forfeiture, and any other documents necessary to effectuate such transfer. Defendant further agrees not to file any claim, answer, or petition for remission or restitution in any administrative or judicial proceeding pertaining to the Subject Property. If any such a document has already been filed, Defendant hereby withdraws that filing.

Defendant agrees to hold the United States and its agents and employees harmless from any claims made in connection with the seizure, forfeiture, or disposal of property connected to this case. Defendant further agrees to waive the requirements of the Federal Rules of Criminal Procedure 32.2 and 43(a) regarding notice of the forfeiture in the charging instrument, announcement of the forfeiture at sentencing, and incorporation of the forfeiture in the judgment. Defendant acknowledges that he understands that the forfeiture of assets is part of the sentence that may be imposed in this case and waives any failure by the Court to advise him of this pursuant to Rule 11(b)(1)(J), at the time his guilty plea is accepted.

Defendant agrees to waive any and all constitutional, statutory, and equitable challenges on any grounds to the seizure, forfeiture, and disposal of any property seized in this case. Defendant specifically agrees to waive any claims, defenses or challenges arising under the Double Jeopardy Clause of the Fifth Amendment and the Excessive Fines Clause of the Eighth Amendment.

10. Waivers

a. Waiver Of Indictment

The defendant understands that he has a right to have this matter submitted to a grand jury for a probable cause determination and knowingly and voluntarily relinquishes this right.

b. Waiver of Appeal

Defendant entirely waives his right to a direct appeal of his conviction and sentence on any ground. The only exceptions are that the Defendant may file a direct appeal of his sentence if (1) the court enters a sentence above the statutory maximum, (2) the court enters a sentence above the advisory Sentencing Guidelines range found to apply by the court at sentencing; or (3)

the Government appeals the sentence. Absent those exceptions, Defendant explicitly and irrevocably instructs his attorney not to file an appeal.

c. **Waiver of Collateral Attack**

Defendant entirely waives his right to collaterally attack his conviction and sentence on any ground and by any method, including but not limited to a 28 U.S.C. § 2255 motion. The only exception is that Defendant may collaterally attack his conviction and sentence based on a claim of ineffective assistance of counsel.

d. **FOIA and Privacy Act Waiver**

Defendant waives all rights, whether asserted directly or through a representative, to request or receive from any department or agency of the United States any record pertaining to the investigation or prosecution of this case under the authority of the Freedom of Information Act, 5 U.S.C. § 552, or the Privacy Act of 1974, 5 U.S.C. § 552a, and all subsequent amendments thereto.

e. **Fed. R. Crim. P. 11(f) and Fed. R. Evid. 410 Waiver**

Rule 11(f) of the Federal Rules of Criminal Procedure and Rule 410 of the Federal Rules of Evidence ordinarily limit the admissibility of statements made by a defendant during the course of plea discussions or plea proceedings. Defendant knowingly and voluntarily waives the protections of these rules. If Defendant fails to plead guilty, or his plea of guilty is later withdrawn, all of Defendant's statements in connection with this plea, and any leads derived therefrom, shall be admissible for any and all purposes.

11. Other Representations

Provided the defendant complies with all terms of this plea agreement and conditions of pretrial release, the government agrees not to oppose bond or defendant's self-surrender to the BOP.

12. Required Financial Disclosure

Not later than 30 days after the entry of his guilty plea, Defendant shall provide to the United States, under penalty of perjury, a financial disclosure form listing all his assets and financial interests, whether held directly or indirectly, solely or jointly, in his name or in the name of another. The United States is authorized to run credit reports on Defendant and to share the contents of the reports with the Court and U.S. Probation.

13. Possible Immigration Effects

Pleading guilty may have consequences with respect to immigration status if Defendant is not a citizen of the United States. Under federal law, a broad range of crimes are removable offenses. Removal and other immigration consequences are the subject of a separate proceeding. No one, including Defendant's attorney or the district court, can predict to a certainty the effect of his conviction on his immigration status. Defendant nevertheless agrees to plead guilty regardless of any immigration consequences, even if the consequence is his removal from the United States.

14. Defendant's Rights

Defendant has the right to be represented by counsel, and if necessary have the court appoint counsel, at trial and at every other critical stage of the proceeding. Defendant possesses a number of rights which he will waive by pleading guilty, including: the right to plead not guilty, or having already so pleaded, to persist in that plea; the right to a jury trial; and the right at trial

to confront and cross-examine adverse witnesses, to be protected from compelled self-incrimination, to testify and present evidence, and to compel the attendance of witnesses.

15. Satisfaction with Counsel

Defendant has had the benefit of legal counsel in negotiating this agreement. Defendant believes that his attorney has represented him faithfully, skillfully, and diligently, and he is completely satisfied with the legal advice given and the work performed by his attorney.

16. Breach of Plea Agreement

If Defendant breaches the plea agreement, withdraws his guilty plea, or attempts to withdraw his guilty plea, the government is released from any agreement herein regarding the calculation of the advisory Sentencing Guidelines or the appropriate sentence. In addition, the government may (1) declare the plea agreement null and void, (2) reinstate any counts that may have been dismissed pursuant to the plea agreement, and/or (3) file new charges against Defendant that might otherwise be barred by this plea agreement. Defendant waives any statute-of-limitations or speedy trial defense to prosecutions reinstated or commenced under this paragraph.

17. Entire Agreement

This agreement contains the entire agreement between the government and Defendant.

11/02/17
Date

11/02/17
Date

R. BRIAN TANNER
UNITED STATES ATTORNEY

Brian T. Rafferty
Chief, Criminal Division

Karl I. Knoche
Assistant United States Attorney

I have read and carefully reviewed this agreement with my attorney. I understand each provision of this agreement, and I voluntarily agree to it. I hereby stipulate that the factual basis set out therein is true and accurate in every respect.

10-6-2017

Date

Mark Ciopraga

Defendant

I have fully explained to Defendant all of his rights, and I have carefully reviewed each and every part of this agreement with him. I believe that he fully and completely understands it, and that his decision to enter into this agreement is an informed, intelligent, and voluntary one.

10-6-17

Date

[Signature]

Defendant's Attorney

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF GEORGIA
BRUNSWICK DIVISION

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA)
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MARK ALAN CIOPRYNA)

CR 217-51

v.

ORDER

The aforesaid Plea Agreement, having been considered by the Court in conjunction with the interrogation by the Court of the defendant and the defendant's attorney at a hearing on the defendant's motion to change his plea and the Court finding that the plea of guilty is made freely, voluntarily and knowingly, it is thereupon,

ORDERED that the plea of guilty by defendant be, and it is, hereby accepted and the foregoing Plea Agreement be, and it is, hereby ratified and confirmed.

This 16 day of November 2017.

JUDGE, UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF GEORGIA